



# Emergency Management MESSENGER

Angus S. King Jr., Governor  
Maj. Gen. Joseph E. Tinkham  
II, Commissioner  
Arthur W. Cleaves, Director

News for Maine Emergency Management Officials

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December 2002

## FROM THE DIRECTOR N

by Art Cleaves

This year has been a very busy and productive year for Emergency Management personnel statewide.

I wish somehow I could end the year with a summary of events other than Homeland Security, but this potential hazard receives the most frequently asked questions. Public officials and citizens in general are keenly aware of world events and are sincerely interested in prevention and preparedness activities in Maine. Is Maine better protected than it was one year ago? Specifically, what progress has been made?

Following the events of September 11, 2001, we started identifying key assets throughout the State. The Maine National Guard, along with the Maine State Police collaborated on protective planning measures that could be put in place at key industry and installations.

This is one very specific action that has improved the security posture at many key facilities across Maine. Private industry, local police, County Sheriffs' offices and Emergency Management Directors have worked together to put initial basic plans in place. Now we await Federal funding (which has been promised from the President and Congress) to complete the physical security measures that are beyond the capability of local government or private industry.

The next area that has improved the most dramatically is the response to suspicious packages (suspected possible bioterrorism/chemical WMD incidents). This area has improved as well as it has is because responders at all levels engaged in WMD awareness training and implementing the safe handling procedures recommended by the Maine State Police, Bureau of Health, and MEMA. This overwhelming training collaboration was truly born out of patriotism and a sense of community civic responsibility. HAZMAT teams statewide responded when called because it simply was the right thing to do, and because they were the best trained to handle suspicious packages. Even industry responded off-site whenever called, even though they are facing some of their toughest economic times.

The Bureau of Health started an education campaign on bioterrorism which served to calm a very nervous population. At the same time, they started improving the public health network and actively engaging all medical professionals. All these efforts require close working relationships between a wide variety of different disciplines. Never before have so many independent agencies been so closely united with one goal in mind—defeat terrorism.

A Homeland Security working group was assembled in Bangor in May of this year to form a vision for Homeland Security in Maine. Once the vision was completed, the group decided on nine key objective areas.

The objective groups continue to make progress in the following specific areas:

- Identify and assess threats and vulnerabilities.
- Prepare first responders.
- Upgrade and integrate communications network.
- Secure our infrastructure.
- Strengthen response and recovery.
- Align roles and responsibilities.
- Strengthen public health preparedness.
- Secure practical and financial support.
- Inform and engage the public.

The single largest barrier facing these groups now is money to complete specific improvements.

Maine is a small rural state which has completely united to build a safe Homeland Security environment and to put in place the best possible response and recovery plans for those terrorist acts that cannot be prevented.

As in any emergency planning efforts, the initiative must be at the local level; all the *suggestions* from the Federal level or State level will remain just that. For any plan to be successful, it must be built at the local level and there is no cookie cutter approach that will work. Madawaska's plan will be different than Biddeford's or South Paris's. Any plans built for Homeland Security will serve the respective community in any emergency. After all, response and recovery is built on partnerships that are built in the planning and training stages.

I sincerely believe that the Citizen Corps initiative unveiled by President Bush in **(continued on page 6)**

# County News

**Kennebec County**—On October 4, 2002 the Kennebec County EMA held a day-long terrorism workshop at the Senator Inn in Augusta. The program featured the theme “It Will Never Happen Here” and hosted over ninety municipal administrators, public safety officials, school staff, and other invited guests. Three prominent speakers from near and far made presentations that were outstanding.

The first speaker was **Dr. Olaf Rankis** an international consultant and professor at the University of Maine at Augusta. Dr. Rankis provided valuable information on the foundations and motivations of terrorism around the world, the US, and the State of Maine. Getting the attention of the audience the point was made that it sure can happen here.

The next speaker was former Israeli Special Forces Intelligence officer **Steven “Shai” Gold** from Miami Florida. Mr. Gold made a clear connection between the hatred for Americans and the potential opportunity to strike here in Maine. The lecture was nothing less than eye-opening for many and achieved the goals of the EMA staff. One point Mr. Gold made that was remembered by the law enforcement members present: there are negotiations. During an incident the terrorists have every intention of dying and expect to take everyone with them.

**Tim Culbert**, retired Maine State Police and founding bomb squad member, finished the day with his entertaining lecture and display of investigation a bomb threat and suspicious packages. Mr. Culbert provided very basic information that everyone should know and guidelines to be followed.

The Kennebec EMA staff would like to thank all who attended, especially our speakers, the County EMAs, and members of MEMA.—**Mark Belserene**, Deputy EMA Director

**Hancock County**—On December 3 and 4, the Hancock County EMA brought the *Hospital Haz-Mat Training Course*, presented by the Kennebec County Technical College, to Ellsworth. Personnel from MDI Hospital, Maine Coast Memorial Hospital, Ellsworth Fire Department, Bar Harbor Fire Department, Hancock County EMA, and the Hancock County Sheriff’s Office participated to develop their skills in decontamination. The required training, a prerequisite to receiving the hospital decontamination package provided by MEMA, as part of the Department of Justice’s Domestic Preparedness Grant, was well received by all. During the two days, a total of thirty people were trained. Further specialized training is expected in January 2003, by the equipment venders, which will provide two of Hancock County’s hospitals with a long overdue decontamination capability.—**Linda Feury**, Administrative Secretary

**Hancock County** —The 2002 annual meeting of the Hancock County LEPC was held on November 20 at China Hill Restaurant. Guest speaker, **Dave Wacker** of the Maine Bureau of Labor Standards, spoke on the new Compliance Directive #1-02 which became effective October 1st of this year. The directive deals with Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response Standards, 29 CFR 1910.120 and 1926.65, Paragraph (q): Emergency Response to Hazardous Substances. Dave explained the purpose of the directive and the training requirements. He followed his presentation with a period of comments and questions. A regular business, including a by-law change requiring that regular meetings should take place quarterly on the third Thursdays in the months of February, May, August, and November, re-election of Chairman **Mike Hangge** and the establishment of a training committee, plans review committee and program committee followed Dave Wacker’s talk. A discussion of the changes to Achievement Level Standards for Local Emergency Planning Committees and an update by Hancock County EMA Director, **Ralph Pinkham**, on plans for HAZMAT capabilities in Hancock County rounded out the evening.—**Linday Feury**, EMA Administrative Secretary



Pictured in the foreground listening to **Dave Wacker** are **Rick Henion** of the Maine Forest Service and **Bob Bechtold** of Acadia National Park Service.

# County News (cont.)

**Aroostook County**—*Exercising In Aroostook County* Even with everything else that we all have going on, Aroostook EMA is pleased to announce that we have been very active with various exercises this year. We are also pleased to announce that we have had excellent participation from our emergency services, industry, and our citizens.



This kind of activity could not have happened without the coordination between County and Local EMA's as well as the assistance of our industries and the LEPC. Here is a list of the exercises that have been done:

Location	Type Of Exercise	Incident	Participants
Van Buren	Table Top	Dam Breach	20
Squa Pan	Functional	Dam Breach	40
Presque Isle	Table Top	Airport Terrorism	22
Houlton	Full Scale	HazMat / WMD	146
Presque Isle	Table Top	Chemical Spill	10
Madawaska	Around The Wheel	Chemical Spill	143

Besides these, we are also having two more before the end of December, both of them table top. One will be for our hospital planning group which includes all four of our County hospitals and will exercise our new plan for handling terrorist incidents, and one in Houlton for a chemical spill.—**Darren R. Woods, Deputy Director, AKEMA**

**Hancock County**—The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-390) encourages and rewards local and state pre-disaster planning. The Hancock County EMA, following the lead of MEMA's State Mitigation Planner, **Judy Maloney**, initiated its regional mitigation planning process on August 13, 2002 by introducing it to the Hancock County Board of Commissioners, and receiving their approval. The next step in the process was to inform the Hancock County municipal officials and local EMA directors on September 25, 2002.

In October we signed a contract with **Dale Rowley** of Thorndike Engineering, a welcome addition to our team, to assist in the technical compilation of the plan, and were good to go. Right away we had twelve people from both the public and private sectors step forward and agree to serve on the planning team, and on October 23 we had our first meeting, describing the process to all, making an all inclusive list of potential hazards, and making assignments for the next meeting, when we will narrow our focus to priority hazards. From the information gathered as a result of the team effort, the tracking of our process, and our current in-kind contribution, the Hancock County EMA staff submitted a rough draft of our plan and what we expected to accomplish to MEMA, and have been awarded partial funding to go forward with creating the Hancock County Mitigation Plan.

On November 19 Director **Pinkham** and Admin. Sec. **Feury** were invited by the MDI League of Towns to attend their monthly meeting, and update them on the progress of the regional mitigation plan. Town managers and senior officials from Bar Harbor, Southwest Harbor, Mt. Desert, Cranberry Isles, Trenton, Tremont, and Acadia National Park were present and were all very positive with the regional approach.—**Ralph Pinkham, Director HKEMA**



Pictured from left to right are: **Ken Minier**, Town Mgr. Southwest Harbor; **Mike MacDonald**, Town Mgr. Mount Desert; **Len Bobinchock**, Acadia National Park; **Michael Chamings**, Town Mgr. Tremont and member of Mitigation Planning Team; Town Mgr. Bar Harbor, **Dana Reed**; **Beverly Sanborn**, league member from Cranberry Isles; and (partially hidden) **Janet Muise**, Town of Trenton Admin. Asst/Selectman.



# MEMA HOSTS ANIMAL DISEASE EXERCISE

by Rayna Leibowitz, MEMA

The Maine Emergency Management Agency and the Maine Department of Agriculture have been working for nearly two years on the development of a plan outlining the policies, procedures, and protocols for handling a highly contagious foreign animal disease in the State. A Table Top Exercise of the plan was held on Oct 10, 2002, which tested the procedures contained in the plan and educated the participants about the aspects of planning and response.

Maine was one of several states participating simultaneously in an exercise designed by the U.S. Dept of Agriculture. While each state had its own local scenario, the source of the outbreaks was a single farm in one state. The scenario was prompted by

the active transportation of livestock throughout the agricultural communities. Interstate livestock sales and transportation occur daily. In this scenario, livestock were purchased at an auction in one state and then transported across the state line to Maine farms. As the scenario unfolded, it was learned that although the animals were infected the clinical signs were not yet evident.

The exercise prompted participants to identify their roles and responsibilities, establish working relationships to achieve their goals, review the procedures outlined in the plan, and make any changes necessary.

The scenario was interrupted periodically with blocks of information pertinent to the disease; such as, a brief overview of the Incident Command System, a demonstration of GIS (Geographical Information Services) mapping capability and the importance of good mapping, protocols to contain and control the spread of the infection, some experiences of Veterinarians who participated in the response to Foot and Mouth Disease in Great Britain and the disposal of animals. A review of the exercise conducted late in the day identified where more research is needed and where the plan could be improved to result in a more effective response.

Participants represented the Maine Emergency Management Agency, Maine Department of Agriculture, the Maine State Police, Department of Transportation, Department of Human Services, Department of Environmental Protection, Emergency Medical Services, National Guard, Department of Conservation Forestry Services, Office of Geographic Information Services, and the



**Chip Ridky, DVM, USDA,** demonstrates the personal protective clothing used in Great Britain. These efforts were part of a biosecurity plan intended to contain and control the spread of a highly infectious animal disease.



Participants ponder the next steps after learning of wider disease distribution in Maine as part of the exercise to test the Foreign Animal Disease Plan by the Maine Dept. of Agriculture and the State of Maine Emergency Response Team. Players shown are: l-r: **Chip Ridky, DVM,** now with USDA, **Shelley Doak,** Dept. of Agriculture **Don Hoenig,** DVM, Dept. of Agriculture, **Peter Mosher,** Dept. of Agriculture, **Craig Leonard,** Dept. of Agriculture, **Rayna Leibowitz,** MEMA.

Public Utilities Commission. Other participants and observers included the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, U.S. Wildlife Service, Maine Dairy Industry Association, Maine Hog Owners Association., Maine Sheep Producers Association., Maine Farm Bureau, The Maine Attorney General's Office, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, and the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Service.

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# Hancock County Firefighters Sharpen Their Skills in Dealing with Boat Yard Fires Involving Fiberglass Hulls

by Linda Fuery,  
HKEMA Administrative Secretary

In late 2001, the Atlantic Boat Company of Brooklin, Maine build a new model 42' hull, only to find the resin used was defective. This fault caused the boat to not be able to be sold. The Purchasing Manager, **Brent Morey**, who is also the Deer Isle Fire Chief, was suddenly faced with a disposal issue, which quickly turned into an opportunity for area firefighters.

Chief Morey had been the Incident Commander at fiberglass boat fires before, and fully realized the difficulties that confront his discipline during a boat yard fire situation. His research indicated that not much data was available to aid firefighters with the best attack techniques, nor were the best extinguishing agents commonly known. He was also concerned with the health effects on firefighters and residents during these events. With these needs in mind, Chief Morey approached Chief **Denny Robertson** of the Blue Hill Fire Department, Chief **David Carter** of the Sedgwick Fire Department, **Ben Astbury**, Blue Hill/Sedgwick Training Officer, and all members of the Hancock County Firefighters Association, District Three, with the suggestion of a training burn and data collection opportunity.

A plan was developed and assignments given in order to secure a burn site, the transport of two boat hulls, the procurement of specialty foams and nozzles to be used, and other support



systems. It is well known that first responders do not learn well on empty stomachs, so a very special thanks went to Chief **Matt Allen** and crew from the Brooklin Fire Department for the feeding of the exercise participants.

The burn was set up in accordance with all National Fire Protection Codes and OSHA requirements, with two safety officers assigned to monitor that assurance. Three attack pumpers from the Blue Hill Fire Department and Deer Isle Fire Department were positioned with an additional pumper and command/rehab truck as backup. An ambulance from the Peninsula

Ambulance Corps was assigned to the medical sector.

According to Chief **Denny Robertson**, who also serves as the Hancock County Firefighters Association Coordinator, this is the first practice burn of a fiberglass hull of which he is aware. "These boats are as expensive as houses, and they don't become available very often just so you can burn them up," he said. "However, with the growing number of boat builders and boat yards in Hancock County, as well the other coastal counties, the chance that

firefighters will have to respond to these events will only increase." The Hancock County Firefighters Association intends to assemble the data collected from this practice burn, and make it available in a training document for the firefighting community.

This training event was monitored and observed by the Hancock County EMA, and as usual the firefighters of Hancock County demonstrated their commitment to excellence, and a commitment to protect the lives and property of the residents of the County.



Merry  
Christmas  
from the  
entire  
MEMA  
staff:

Joe A., Steve, Darla, Art,  
Lisa, Tony, Bob, Mike G., Joe  
G., Rayna, Louise, Fred,  
Judy, Gene, Lynette, Dawn,  
Jahneene, Barbara, Luke,  
Mike S., Jay, Brenda, and  
Helene.

(Continued from page 1) the State of the Union address will bring a whole new wave of volunteers to assist in any emergency or disaster. If we, as Emergency Managers, seize the enthusiastic response to the Citizen Corps initiative and overcome the hurdles that will occur as new relationships are built *and* overcome the training barriers we have the opportunity to double or triple our response efforts.

The forming of CERT Teams (Community Emergency Response Teams) or MRS (Medical Reserve Corps), will come with many training challenges as well as an opportunity to build new relationships. That's our business—identifying resources and building partnerships before a crisis occurs.

And finally, MEMA was afforded a unique opportunity in that Governor-Elect Baldacci requested a briefing on Homeland Security and Emergency Management. This was one of two formal briefings that was given to the Governor-Elect (the other was a formal budget briefing) which points out his keen interest in Emergency Management. The highest official in the State is focused on Emergency Management and wants reassurance for the citizens of the State that plans are in place to deal with any emergency or crisis that could occur. That is welcome support, but also a challenge to make sure the job is done.

## County News (cont.)

**Aroostook County—HOULTON:** After years of planning and the renaming of hundreds of streets, Enhanced 9-1-1 is now in Aroostook County. The emergency phone service was activated October 29, 2002 giving local residents the capability to dial 9-1-1 to request police, fire, and medical assistance during an emergency.

To commemorate the implementation of 9-1-1 in the region, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held November 1, 2002 at the Maine State Police Regional Communications Center in Houlton which will serve as the public safety answering point (PSAP) for the County.

Though the approach of using the State Police Communications Center as our PSAP is not consistent with other Counties throughout the State, this has proven to be the best option for Aroostook County residents and communities. **Paul Adams**, chair of the Aroostook County Commissioners, said the commissioners had been involved with Enhanced 9-1-1 for the last couple of years. "We're happy to see this come to fruition," said Adams. "It's going to make all the difference in the world to have this service available to our residents." While much work has been accomplished, it's now up to our residents to make sure their homes and buildings are numbered accordingly, this will assure a quick and accurate response by all first responders.—**Scott Mitchell Johnson, Pioneer Times Staff Writer and Vernon R. Ouellette, Director Aroostook County Emergency Management Agency**



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# A Gift That Keeps on Giving

by Gene Maxim, MEMA Natural Hazards Planner

With the holiday season approaching many of you may be looking for a useful gift for hard-to-buy-for persons that seem to have everything. How about gifts that will warn them of approaching severe weather and other fast-breaking emergency situations! That extra time to prepare for the safety of friends, relatives, and yourself that Weather Radios provide can make all the difference. Weather Radios, like smoke detectors, stand ready to alert people even while they're sleeping to possible hazardous situations.

The NOAA Weather Radio (NWA) (<http://205.156.54.206/nwr/nwrback.htm>) system broadcasts pre-event warnings and post-event information for all types of public hazards, such as, weather (hurricane, tornado, dam breach, flood), natural (earthquake, forest fires), technological (chemical release, oil spill), and national emergencies (nuclear, biological, chemical). There are additional hazards and situations that Weather Radios will alert to. The NOAA Weather Radio System is the most reliable, effective, single source available to the public for comprehensive weather and emergency information. Broadcast coverage is widespread with over 750 t r a n s m i t t e r s (<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/nwrbro.htm>) covering all 50 states, adjacent coastal waters, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the U.S. Pacific Territories. There are more transmitters going up every week. Weather Radios are useful travel accessories since they also receive constantly updated local weather information that NWR broadcasts twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

Many manufacturers of Weather Radios (<http://205.156.54.206/nwr/nwrrcvr.htm>) offer a variety of models, features, and prices, so there is sure to be one that is just right for the special person in your life. All Weather Radios include two basic capabilities—battery back-up operation and “set it and forget it” emergency alert mode.

When a potentially harmful event occurs the National Weather Service can broadcast a special tone that causes all Weather Radios to sound a loud ten-second alert tone. The Weather Radio is then turned on to hear the broadcast. Some of the more expensive models can be set to automatically go to the voice message when an alert is transmitted. Some models have an alarm-out jack so that the Weather Radio can be tied into a number of home security systems.

For more money Weather Radios are available with specific area Message Encoding (SAME). This feature allows the user to limit Weather Radio alerts to only those that affect a specific county(s) and to choose which hazards will activate the Weather Radio alert tone. Add-on accessories are available for the hearing impaired such as pillow vibrators, bed shakers, and strobe lights (<http://homesafeinc.com/monitores.htm> or [http://harriscomm.com/acb/showprod.cfm?&DID=7&CATID=9&ObjectGroup\\_ID=113](http://harriscomm.com/acb/showprod.cfm?&DID=7&CATID=9&ObjectGroup_ID=113) or other interesting information located at <http://www.weatherradios.com/special.htm>).

For about \$70.00, battery-operated models, with belt clips, have both SAME and Family Radio Service (FRS) capability. FRS allows for two-way voice communication (up to two miles over land, and up to five miles over water) between all FRS radios that are set to t h e s a m e c h a n n e l (<http://www.midlandradio.com/faqs.asp?pid+17> for more information). Two or more of these FRS capable Weather Radios would be wonderful for staying in contact with your children or your sweetie while shopping, hiking, or brook fishing, and I'll bet you can think of a dozen additional situations.

## Some Purchase Considerations:

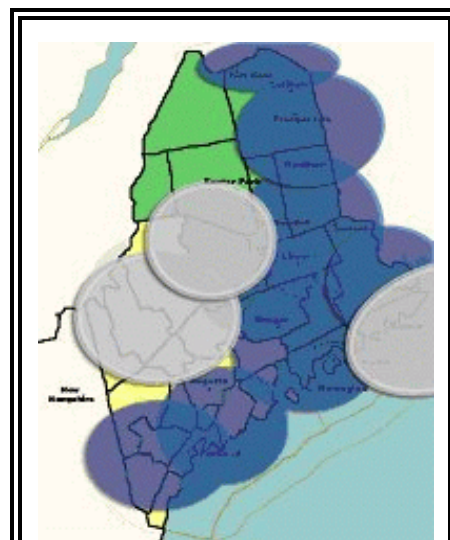
- Lower priced models may not pull in stations that are more distant. This may be okay if the Weather Radio will be permanently located in an area with a strong signal.

- If it uses batteries, are they the lower cost easily found types (AA, 9V)?
- Does it have jacks for an external antenna and an AC/DC adapter?
- Will you need to purchase additional accessories and will the model you choose a c c o m m o d a t e t h e m ? ([http://205.156.54.206/nwr/special\\_need.htm](http://205.156.54.206/nwr/special_need.htm))

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**Coverage areas for the map below are approximate as reception can be affected by icing, heavy rain, or other severe weather conditions. Note that projected broadcast coverage for new transmitters being installed at Carrabassett Valley, Greenville, and in the Jonesport-Columbia Falls area is being shown in lighter colored circles.**



**Dark circles represent currently operating transmitters. Lighter circles are funded broadcast sites in development stages. Map courtesy of Hendricus Lulofs, National Weather Service, Caribou, Maine.**



We  
Want  
to HEAR  
from YOU!

This newsletter was produced by the Maine Emergency Management Agency. We welcome your comments and recommendations regarding its content. Please send contributions, ideas, and questions by February 12 to:

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PLEASE NOTE: Submissions may be edited for length and clarity.

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan. 9, **SERC Training Committee**, Location TBA, 9 a.m.

Jan. 16, **SERC Meeting**, Location TBA, 1 p.m.

Jan. 23 & 24, **EOC Management and Operations Course, G275**, State EOC, Augusta, ME

Jan. 29, 30, and 31, **Community Emergency Response Team TTT**, Top of the Rock, Tradewinds Model, Rockland, ME

Feb. 25 & 26, **Resource Management Course, G276**, State EOC, Augusta, ME

March 11, **SERC Meeting**, State EOC, Augusta, ME 9 a.m.

March 25 & 26, **ICS EOC Interface, G191**, State EOC, Augusta, ME

April 8 & 9, **RAPID Assessment G250.7**, and **Asking for Help G270.1**, State EOC, Augusta, ME

**NOTE:** Contact your County EMA Director for further information.

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